

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192630

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EIND, HA
SUBJECT: JBI/QUISQUEYA MFG. S.A. CASE

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY JOHN MONAGAN, OF LAW FIRM OF WHITMAN & RANSOM, CONCERNING DIFFICULTIES WITH GOH ENCOUNTERED BY CLIENT JBI MANUFACTURING CORP IN CONNECTION WITH THAT FIRM'S PARTICIPATION IN JOINT VENTURE IN HAITI KNOWN AS QUISQUEYA MANUFACTURING S.A. ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING WEARING APPAREL IN HAITI FOR SUBSEQUENT EXPORT. DIFFICULTIES APPEAR TO REVOLVE AROUND SEIZURE BY HAITIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS OF NUMBER OF SHIPMENTS OF GOODS CONSIGNED TO QUISQUEYA BY JBI AS WELL AS CLOSING BY GOH OF FIRM'S HAITIAN PLANT AND CONFISCATION OF FINISHED GOODS THEREIN.

2. FROM DOCUMENTS PROVIDED DEPARTMENT BY MONAGAN IT SEEMS THAT JBI/QUISQUEYA'S TROUBLES STEM FROM THEIR ALLEGED MISUSE OF DUTY FREE IMPORT PRIVILEGE TO IMPORT GOODS MADE IN KOREA BUT LABELED AS IF MADE IN HAITI. JBI DISPUTES FACTUAL ACCURACY OF THIS CHARGE AND CONTENDS THAT IN ANY CASE SEIZURE OF FINISHED GOODS AND CLOSING OF PLANT BY GOH WERE ILLEGAL AND THAT JBI HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN
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ADMINISTRATIVE OR JUDICIAL HEARING IN ORDER TO CHALLENGE

PROPRIETY OF GOH ACTIONS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MONAGAN'S QUERIES, DEPARTMENT LEGAL OFFICERS OFFERED TO MEET WITH HIM TO PERMIT HIM TO PRESENT JBI'S SIDE OF DISPUTE. ACTION REQUESTED: BEFORE MEETING WITH MONAGAN IS SCHEDULED, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM EMBASSY ANY NEW OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IT MAY HAVE CONCERNING DISPUTE AND ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF GENERAL HILLAIRE THEREIN. FYI: WE HAVE ALSO BEEN CONTACTED BY RHODA BLAU, PRESIDENT OF HILLARY CHILDREN'S DRESSES, INC., WHO HAS INDICATED THAT THAT FIRM HAD ON OCCASION PERMITTED JBI, WHOSE PREMISES IN HAITI IT SHARED, TO USE HILLARY'S IMPORT FRANCHISE FOR PURPOSES OF IMPORTATION OF GOODS BY JBI WHICH WE ASSUME IS VIOLATION OF HAITIAN LAW. WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT INFORMED MONAGAN OF THIS INFORMATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY MAY HAVE ON THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM AS WELL. END
FYI. KISSINGER

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